THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**CONTACT:** Rob Bruder
(216) 707-2265
rbruder@clevelandart.org

# The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents Exquisite Sand Mandala at Cleveland City Hall

*Six Week Residency by Tibetan Monks Includes the Creation of a Sacred Sand Mandala*

**CLEVELAND (Aug. 4, 2005) —** The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) presents **Circle of Compassion: The Sand Mandala Painting of Tibet**, Aug. 27 through Oct. 8, a six-week residency of three lamas from the Namgyal Monastery – the personal monastery of H. H. Dalai Lama of Tibet. During their residency the lamas will create a sacred mandala – spiritual design – by painstakingly laying millions of colorful grains of sand into the intricate design of a *Kalachakra* mandala. The mandala will be created in the rotunda of Cleveland's City Hall.

**Admission to the six-week Mandala creation is free.**

This remarkable process begins at Cleveland's City Hall on Saturday Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. with a traditional opening ceremony to honor the mandala. Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell and James Bartlett, president of the CMA Board of Trustees will make opening remarks and welcome the lamas to Cleveland. The three lamas, Tenzin Thutop, Lobsang Gyaltfen and Nawang Topgyal then begin drafting an elaborate geometric drawing of the mandala on a wooden base followed by the delicate laying of sand (made from crushed white stone dyed in 14 colors) in a pattern based on ancient Buddhist texts.

The *Kalachakra* sand mandala (from Sanskrit meaning "wheel of time") is considered a masterpiece of Tibetan ritual art. The three lamas will create the circular, seven-foot sand painting from memory using narrow funnels to apply colored sand nearly grain by grain. Working from the center outward, the finished mandala represents the five-story palace of the enlightened deity Kalachakra.

Upon completion, the lamas will hold a dismantling ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. During the ceremony, the lamas will carefully place the sand into a vase and lead a procession to Lake Erie, where they will pour the sand into the lake to purify the environment and bless the community. This act is a lesson in the impermanence of all things, a central tenet in Buddhism.

For more than 1,000 years, sand mandalas have been an integral part of Tibetan Buddhist ritual. In fact, before the 1980s, the Kalachakra, the most sacred of the mandalas were only made four times a century and represented one of the rarest ritual experiences.

In 1988, The Dalai Lama began to permit the construction of the Kalachakra mandala in museums, galleries and cultural settings around the world. Calling the Kalachakra a "vehicle for world peace," the Dalai Lama has written that "fertile seeds of peace" are planted in all who see the mandala and reside in the community

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where it is created. In 1997, the CMA's Armor Court was the site of the creation of a Kalachakra mandala, an event that drew more than 38,000 thousands of visitors eager to experience this most remarkable work of art.

The creation of the mandala is an evolving work in progress. The public is invited to visit the site often over the six-week residency to observe and ask questions of the lamas as well as join them for daily meditations.

**The Circle of Compassion: The Sand Mandala Painting of Tibet** is presented in partnership with the City of Cleveland and is part of the CMA's VIVA! & Gala Around Town series.

The 2005-06 **VIVA! & Gala Around Town** series includes:

**Circle of Compassion:**
**The Sand Mandala Painting of Tibet**
Saturday, Aug. 27 through Saturday, Oct. 8

Viewing days and hours: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
At Cleveland City Hall

**Opening ceremony:** A traditional ceremony to honor the sand mandala begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, with ritual chanting and preliminary drawing by the monks.
*Days and hours:* Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the entire six-week project, spectators are invited to ask questions of the monks and join them during their daily meditations, held each morning at 10 a.m.

**Closing ceremony and procession:** Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. After completion of the sand mandala, the monks, in keeping with Buddhist tradition, ritually dismantle the mandala and return it to Lake Erie for its next cycle of existence, and to bless the environment and the community.

**Chanticleer**: **An Orchestra of Voices**
Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
At Trinity Cathedral

"Luxurious perfections" –*Los Angeles Times*

Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "the world's reigning male chorus," the Grammy Award-winning Chanticleer offers an exciting evening of music ranging from folk to jazz, and from gospel to adventurous new works, all performed with passion and sublime sound. Chanticleer has developed a remarkable reputation for its vivid interpretations of vocal literature. With its seamless blend of 12 male voices that range from countertenor to bass, the ensemble has earned its as "an orchestra of voices." Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.
www.chanticleer.org

**Dawn Upshaw and Friends**
In Osvaldo Golijov's *Ayre*
Sunday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
At Severance Hall

"You could feel a shiver run through the audience: the visceral recognition of a work of freshness and genius." – *Newsday*

Multi-Grammy Award-winning Dawn Upshaw (Sony Classics) is renowned for the unaffected beauty of her singing and her emotionally charged performances. Applauded in the opera houses of New York, Paris, Salzburg and Vienna, she is equally at home performing the music of our time. In addition to her Grammys, Upshaw has been honored with the Gramophone and Edison prizes for recordings of works written specifically for her. Special guests include famed Argentinean guitarist Gustavo Santaolallo (composer, *Motorcycle Diaries*) and the crack new music ensemble eighth blackbird. Osvaldo Golijov is considered one of the foremost composers of our time. His *Ayre* draws from 15th-century Spanish folksongs featuring songs of love and war, religion and rage performed in myriad languages, including Ladino (the lost language of the Spanish Jews). *Ayre* is a perfect vehicle for Upshaw's tour de force virtuosity. Single tickets $39, CMA members $34.

**Gianmaria Testa**
Friday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.
At Pilgrim Congregational Church

"The Italian Leonard Cohen" –*Globe and Mail*

Testa's songs, carefully crafted miniatures, tell stories of lovers in Rome, wind and memories, earth and fog, and ladies in train stations. He is one of Europe's most acclaimed singer-songwriters. "Testa's gravelly, nicotine-infused voice often reminds listeners of legendary cabarettista Paolo Conte," notes *Time Out.* "Both write timeless, bittersweet songs drawing on a sophisticated palette of sounds, including tango, blues, and bossa nova." Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.
www.gianmariatesta.com.

**Korean Dance: Tradition and Creation**
Seoul Performing Arts Company
Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.
At Masonic Auditorium

Live music, superb singing, stunning choreography, gorgeous costumes, refined staging, and a sense of joy and humor emanate from this remarkable company. They have created numerous spectacular productions of traditional Korean song and dance, staging over 800 performances viewed by more than three million people in 40 countries. The troupe offers a range of works, including the stately ceremonial dances of the royal court as well as the slowly evolving and sensuous courtship dance. Seoul Performing Arts Company (SPAC) is presented in the U.S. with major support from the Korean government and Korea Society. Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.

**Ballet Flamenco José Porcel**
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
At the Palace Theatre, Playhouse Square Center

"An artist from his feet to his head" –*Los Almuerzos del Lido-Sociedad y Cultura*

Rhythmic, euphoric, and sensual, the dancers of José Porcel move with vitality and grace. His Ballet Flamenco includes nine arresting female dancers, along with a virtuosic ensemble of musicians and vocalists in programs that range from flamenco to traditional dances from Andalusia. The unparalleled Porcel has taken flamenco to stages around the world, including a performance for thousands at the Hollywood Bowl, followed by a string of sold-out performances at the Opéra de Paris. Single tickets $39, CMA members $34.

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**Noëls: Karel Paukert**
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2:30 p.m.
At Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"To everything he brought bold artistry that conveyed the grandeur, mystery, and color of the repertoire at hand—and foot." –*The Plain Dealer*

CMA's curator emeritus bookmarks festive *Noëls* with works by J. S. Bach. Works from this concert can be heard on his critically acclaimed CD *Noëls* (available on the Azica label, www.azica.com). **Free Admission**.

**Masterpieces of Russian Drama:**
*Swan Songs + Confessions of a Madman*
Thursday, Jan. 5 through Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Kennedy's Down Under, Playhouse Square Center

The genius of Nikolai Gogol and Anton Chekhov, two of the greatest dramatists of the Russian stage, is revealed in two hilarious and affectionate one-act plays. In *Swan Song,* Reuben Silver stars as an aging actor who ruminates on his checkered past and uncertain future. Dorothy Silver co-stars as his companion and sounding board. In *Confessions,* a minor clerk (played by Terrence Cranendonk) escapes his dreary 9-to-5 life by developing a romantic obsession with the young daughter of the company's CEO. In both episodes, the tension between the crushing reality of each character's mundane existence and the pitiful humor of their surroundings makes for an insightful and engaging theater experience. Adapted and directed by Massoud Saidpour. Single tickets $23, CMA members $19.

**The Vermeer String Quartet**
The Beethoven String Quartets
Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights

Last Cleveland performance

"One of the best ensembles that one can hear anywhere today" –*Journal de Genève*

Retiring at the end of 2007 after an expansive career that began at the Marlboro Festival in 1969, the Vermeer finishes its Beethoven Series with the mystical and aphoristic Op. 131, described by Beethoven himself as "zusammengestohlen aus Verschiedenem diesem und jenem" ("made of various bits and pieces, stolen from here and there"). Single tickets $29, CMA members $24.

**The Kronos Quartet**
In Terry Riley's *Sun Rings*
With the Oberlin College Choir, Hugh Floyd, director
Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Masonic Auditorium

"Space sounds swirl in the air; galaxies carpet the walls and ceiling; and Riley's generous melodies flow through Kronos' four string instruments. The audience sat in spellbound silence the way spectators do at a space launch." –*Los Angeles Times*

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*Sun Rings* is a sumptuous, evening-length meditation on space exploration. Commissioned by NASA, the multimedia production features music by Terry Riley that deftly incorporates sounds from the Milky Way—crackling solar windstorms, the whistling of lightning on Jupiter, and other space sounds—triggered by Kronos using an interactive computer. Breathtaking images of the solar system photographed by the Voyager and Galileo space probes and prepared by visual designer Willie Williams (of U2 and REM fame) complete this once-in-a-lifetime immersion into the world of space. A not-to-be-missed event. Single tickets $39, CMA members $34.

**Martin Haselböck, organ**
Wednesday, March 1, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

"The huge audience at Leningrad's Philharmonic Hall was at his feet. Haselböck certainly could be called the ideal of a performer, combining highly intelligent musicianship with a virtuoso technique, the insight in all the secrets of the art of registration, and the ability to communicate with his audience." *–Moscow Musical Gazette*

Internationally renowned Viennese organ virtuoso Martin Haselböck is music director of the Wiener Akademie Orchestra and professor for organ in the Church Music department of the Musikhochschule in Lübeck. He plays the newly renovated Skerritt-Cumming Organ at First Baptist in a program of works by J. S. Bach, Hindemith, Schoenberg, and Liszt. **Free Admission**.

**Marc-André Hamelin, piano**
Isaac Albéniz: *Ibéria*
Saturday, March 18, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Pilgrim Congregational Church

"His seemingly limitless technique gave an exhilarating sense, not of the pianist's own powers, but of the potential of the human spirit." *–The National Post* (Toronto)

French-Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin, winner of the Carnegie Hall Competition and the 2000 Gramophone Award, puts his dynamic virtuosity to the test when he presents the complete performance of Albéniz's *Ibéria.* Evoking the spirit of Spain through luxurious melodies and exquisite dance rhythms, Albéniz's masterwork fits perfectly among the arabesque-clad walls of Pilgrim Church. Single tickets $29, CMA members $24.

**Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares**
(The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices)
Sunday, March 26, 2006, 4 p.m.
At Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus

"The most beautiful music on the planet" *–St. Louis Post Dispatch*

With musical roots dating back to the ancient Thracians, the Bulgarian women's chorus continues to create a vocal music that is unlike any other. Combining elements of Byzantine liturgy, laments, and folk music sumptuously sung in six-part harmony by pure, vibrato-free voices, the 20-voice Grammy Award-winning choir is in demand the world over. Perfectly matched to the acoustics of St. Stanislaus, this concert is destined to be one of the year's musical highlights. Single tickets $39, CMA members $34.

**Anne Akiko Meyers, violin**
Reiko Aizawa, piano
Saturday, April 1, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Pilgrim Congregational Church

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"[Meyers] can take a meandering train of thought and spin it out into a melody of exquisite beauty. . . . This is playing of rare sensitivity." *–BBC Music Magazine*

Awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant at the age of 23, Anne-Akiko Meyers has attracted worldwide critical acclaim for her bold interpretations of classic works and commitment to contemporary music. A protégé of Masao Kawasaki and Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School, Meyers performs throughout the world seasonally and has amassed an extensive discography on the RCA Victor Red Seal and Avie labels. Single tickets $29, CMA members $24.
www.anneakikomeyers.com

**Trio Joubran: The Art of Improvisation**
Friday, April 14, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At the Reinberger Chamber Hall of Severance Hall

"[Samir Joubran] plays with eyes closed. On his features shadows and signs betray anxiety. Something is burning inside, a biting intensity. . . . In the silences, the spaces between notes, reality is screaming out." *–Le Monde*

Trio Joubran will make their Carnegie debut at Zankel Hall as part of IN YOUR EAR TOO, a weekend festival curated by John Adams. The Joubran brothers—all out virtuosos—from Nazareth have stunned audiences wherever they have performed. The trio weaves an improvised tapestry of deeply felt music that is so immediate and exuberant that they leave listeners breathless. Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.

The Reinberger Chamber Hall was designed and built by Walker & Weeks, whose work tended to reflect a synthesis of a variety of modern and classic styles (e.g., First Baptist and Severance Hall). Designed in an 18th-century style with painted murals depicting gardens flanking the seating areas, Reinberger is an integral part of Severance Hall as the home to preconcert lectures, solo recitals, and chamber concerts.

**The Roby Lakatos Ensemble**
Friday, April 21, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Trinity Cathedral

"Lakatos . . . slithered and scampered his way—at about 100 notes a second—through four show stoppers, each more preposterously exuberant than the last." *–The Times* (London)
Gypsy violinist Roby Lakatos (Deutsche Grammophon) is not only a scorching virtuoso, but a musician of extraordinary stylistic versatility. Equally comfortable performing classical music as he is playing jazz and in his own Hungarian folk idiom, Lakatos is the kind of universal musician so rarely encountered in our time—a player whose strength as an interpreter derives from his activities as an improviser and composer. He has collaborated with Vadim Repin and Stéphane Grappelli, and his playing was greatly admired by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. He has performed at the great halls and festivals of Europe, Asia, and America. Single tickets $39, CMA members $34.
www.robylakatos.com

**Osvaldo Golijov: Musical Alchemy**
With the St. Lawrence String Quartet
Todd Palmer, clarinet
The Cavani String Quartet
Saturday, May 6, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At Temple-Tifereth Israel

The *New York Times* called Osvaldo Golijov's *Passion of St. Marco* "a millennial work of genius, a magnificent triumph," adding to his reputation as one of today's major composers. His music leaves listeners in a state of grace

that is all too rare in modern music. *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*, the centerpiece of this all-Golijov evening, is a "startling artistic experience whose echoes will haunt listeners for a long time to come" (*Spoleto Today*). Inspired by Hebrew themes, Golijov's works are presented in the sanctuary of the exquisite Temple-Tifereth Israel, an architectural/musical combination that promises to be one of the cultural highlights of our season. The St. Lawrence String Quartet is one of the most engaging world-class chamber ensembles of its generation. The group continues to build on its reputation for imaginative, spontaneous musicmaking, what the *Washington Post* calls "emotionally high charged but never out of control." Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.
www.osvaldogolijov.com
www.slsq.com

**Astrid Hadad: Provocateur Par Excellance**
Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
At the Bolton Theatre of the Cleveland Play House
Note: No one under 18 admitted.
"One of the most provocative stage acts since the Weimar Republic was in bloom." –*New York Times*

Join Mexican diva and provocateur Astrid Hadad on an unforgettable magical-realist cabaret journey. Known for her profound creative talent, Hadad's otherworldly voice is powered by an eclectic musical taste that touches upon myriad styles, including ranchera, bolero, rumba, rock, and jazz. In an extravaganza of camp humor and song, Hadad embodies a dizzying array of characters (helped by her eccentric wardrobe, where hearts, gigantic eyes, turquoise-blue dresses, and an old lantern play before the eyes) to reflect on the sociopolitical realities of today's world. Presented in partnership with Cleveland Play House's FusionFest. Single tickets $34, CMA members $29.
www.astridhadad.com

**Subscription Plans Offered**

Subscribers to VIVA! & Gala Around Town may select from three convenient subscriptions for savings up to $125 or 25 percent off the full ticket price.

- Subscriptions for all 15 performances save $125.
- Subscriptions for ten to fourteen performances save $60.
- Subscriptions for five to nine performances save $30.

Single tickets will range from $19 to $34 for CMA members and $23 to $39 for non-members. Subscriptions are available to CMA members beginning Aug. 9, and to non-members Aug. 16. Single tickets are available to CMA members beginning Aug. 23 and to non-members Aug. 30 by calling **1-888-CMA-0033** or online at www.clevelandart.org.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support for VIVA! is provided by 90.3 WCPN Ideastream, WCLV 104.9 FM and Cleveland Free Times.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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**Editors Note: Music and video samples of each artist are available upon request.**